

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Falls Church City Hall, Community Center – Art Room, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA 22046

Commissioners Present:

Tena Bluhm (Chair), Maureen Renault (Vice Chair), Tom Bash, Nazir Bhagat, Julie Bloom Ellis, Dan Henderson, Kay Larmer, Kenneth Malmberg, Mary Jo Rasmussen

Commissioners Absent:

Joe Heastie, Glenda DeVinney, Suzanne Rudiselle

Staff Present:

Sharon Lynn, Jacquie Woodruff

Others Present:

Bonnie O'Leary, *Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons*; Rhiannon Duck, *BOS -Braddock District*; Bob Eiffert, *Fairfax County Health Department*; Amy Trang, *Fairfax Area Agency on Aging*; Rose Mario, *Inova Care for Seniors™ PACE® Program*

Call to Order, Adoption of the day's Agenda and Draft Minutes:

Chair Tena Bluhm called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Tom motioned that the agenda be accepted; Julie seconded.

Mary Jo motioned that the draft minutes be accepted; Ken seconded.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Presentation:

PACE – Rose Mario, Enrollment Coordinator, InovaCares for Seniors™ PACE® Program.

Rose Mario presented about the first PACE center in Northern Virginia. The InovaCares for Seniors™ PACE® Program is a comprehensive, coordinated healthcare program and adult day health service in Fairfax. Based on the national PACE model, the program provides integrated healthcare and social services in a community-based setting. Participants are transported to the center where they receive individualized medical and social services including adult day care.

Twenty-nine participants are currently enrolled in the program.

Old Business:

- 50+ meeting with Deputy Executive Pat Harrison's Human Services Management Team.

Sharon reported that she, Jacquie, Marlae Schnare (Supervisor Herrity's aide), and Rosemary Ryan (Supervisor Cook's aide) will meet with the senior management teams of each of the deputy county executives to discuss 50+ initiatives in their agencies. Sharon will email the COA the names of the deputies and the teams they oversee. Commissioners should send Sharon specific questions they would like addressed. Sharon and Jacquie will meet with Supervisor Herrity and Marlae Schnare next week to discuss the 50+ Action Plan Redesign and community forums. Tena reported that the public meetings will be scheduled for June and July.

Tena reported that she wanted to confirm the COA's direction regarding 50+ public meetings before contacting Marlae as discussed at last meeting. She stated that the public meetings will be scheduled for June and July. Mary Jo motioned that, because a structure has been established for moving forward with 50+ public forums, the COA withdraw the related action proposed at the last meeting. Kay seconded. After discussion, the COA voted to put the action on hold.

- BOS Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget Hearings – Thursday, April 11, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

Although Tena submitted a letter on behalf of the COA to the Human Services Council, she made clear that she believes the advocacy process this year was not acceptable due to the lack of input and information. The COA discussed budget priorities, philosophies, and approaches to the budget and budget hearing testimonies.

At the request of the COA, Amy Trang worked with multiple departments to compile the document "Number of Persons Affected if FY 2014 Reductions Not Taken." Julie suggested that the COA thank the County Executive and the BOS for not taking the reductions that included closure of nine senior centers and adult day health programs, a redesign of the Senior+ program, and the elimination of the Special Needs Specialist in Emergency Management. She has experienced people coming in to senior centers and saying, "You've really saved me."

Dan and Maureen will testify on behalf of the COA; the third budget slot will be canceled.

- February Meeting Follow-up.

As promised, John Dargle, Park Authority Director, provided responses to COA questions. Jackie will email the document to the COA.

New Business:

- 2013 COA Objectives – Tena and Maureen.

Tena and Maureen presented their proposed "COA 2013 Commission Objectives" with three themes of staying connected, research key topics, and advocacy – budget/legislation. Tena suggested that COA representation be rotated in the meetings with Supervisor Herrity. Julie volunteered to take lead on the speakers' calendar. Media options mentioned included Connection newspapers, BOS newsletters, and Channel 16 panel discussions.

The COA agreed to the proposed framework and will discuss approaches at the next meeting.

Mary Jo motioned that meetings be extended to begin at noon. Tom seconded. After discussion, the COA voted unanimously to schedule meetings from 12-3, beginning with May meeting.

Member Activity Reports:

Maureen announced a mobility conference on April 11.

Tom announced that a transportation Web page is now online. He continues to work with Supervisor Herrity's office to ensure that the new older adults' Web page appears on the county's home page.

Kay announced that Life Care Alliance has selected award recipients who will be officially recognized at the May 4 LTCCC meeting. Four older adult projects will be awarded.

Nazir and Tom heard a human rights advocacy group presentation at BFAC. Ken asked if they had an update on bus stops. Tom stated that bus stop issues were included in the transportation survey. Over 1,000 have responded to the survey.

Adjourn:

Mary Jo motioned to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.; Dan seconded.